95 FS Tyndall AFB

“Death With Finesse”

Maj John “Waldo” Hampton

Time Hack 1034

FIGHTER OPS

The Flight Doc’s Guide to Surviving the First Couple of Weeks in a Fighter Pilot’s World

A Fighter Pilot’s Perspective

Disclaimer

The following presentation includes no warranty, expressed or implied. It is not intended to apply to everyone in every situation. Take it with a grain of salt, or two aspirin, and call me in the morning (I'll be gone).

The Big Picture

- The Patient
- The Patient's World
- The Patient's Coping
- The Doctor
- The Doctor's Place in the Patient's World = Coping

Know your Patient

- Mostly Male
- Mostly Egotistical
- Mostly Hard to get to know - Clique-ish
- Mostly Aggressive
- Mostly Responsible
- Mostly Type A
- Rude, Crude, Abrupt, Crass
- A Lot Like YOU!!! (Except the bad parts)

Your Patient's World

- Deal with Death Everyday (Their own)
- Long Days
- Tough Deployments
- Lots of Additional Duties
- Extremely Competitive
- Trained to Kill

Job Description, Fighter Pilot

It is the sole responsibility of the fighter pilot to roam in the designated area and kill whomever he pleases.

- WW1 Commander

Fighter Pilot's Coping

- Demands - Discipline
- Competition - No Mistakes
- War - Intense Bonding
  - Roll Call - Stories, Songs
  - Games
  - Names
  - Roof Stomps

Fighter Pilot's Coping

"Death is a Small Price to Pay for Looking Shit Hot"

Fighter Pilot's Coping

"It's Better to Look Good than to Be Good"

Fighter Pilot's Coping

"I'd Rather be Lucky than Good, Any Day"

The Doctor

- Similar to the Above
- Responsible, and ready to act that way
- Generally more reserved, refined
- Definitely more grown up!?
- Possibly perceived as one of “Them”

Coping

- Be Ready to Sit Back and Observe
- Be Ready and Willing to Join in
- Be on TIME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Be Tough
  - Don’t show Weaknesses
  - Have a Thick Skin (Real Thick)
- Be a Sponge

Coping - Rules to Live By

- Don’t touch anything Yellow & Black
- Don’t cross the Red Line
- No Hats on/in the Bar
- No Bricks on the Bar/Vault!!!
- No Pointing
- No Whining
- No Alcohol Abuse
- Don’t Attempt to Intimidate with Power

On the Positive Side

- You are an Important Part of the Family - At Work and at Home
- Get Involved - Fly, Fly, Fly
- Look for ways to Help
  - Hangover Cures
  - Deployment Kits
  - Water Balloon Fight Ammo
- Never Give Up

On the Positive Side

Just Be Yourself

Questions?

The Big Picture

- The Patient
- The World
- Patient’s Coping
- The Doctor
- The Doctor’s Place/Coping

Did you hear some noise late last night?

Was it jet noise?

Did it come from a Soviet-produced Fighter/Bomber?

So what are you complaining about?

Let's Eat!!!

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